

7 February 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Interview with [redacted]

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1. At about noon, 7 February 1949, [redacted] called at my office and asked for an interview, which I granted.

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2. [redacted] stated that he had lost out on two good jobs in the government recently, that he had concluded that it was because I was not recommending him to people who inquired of his past record with this organization, and he wanted to know what kind of a recommendation I was giving him.

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3. I advised him that my recommendations had been solicited on two occasions and that I had advised the person calling that [redacted] was a conscientious, industrious employee with considerable editorial and administrative experience, that compared to the ratings in our organization I did not consider him CAF-12 or 13 material, that I would not recommend his appointment as head of an independent overseas mission responsible to Washington such as that he had occupied as Chief of the FBIB Mediterranean Bureau, and that I would not recommend his appointment at more than a CAF-11 in any case.

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4. [redacted] then stated, "Well, I can see that you still have your hooks into me," or words to that effect. He continued at some length, saying substantially that he thought it extremely unfair of me not to recommend him any higher since I had rated him "Good" and later "Very Good" as Chief of the FBIB Mediterranean Bureau.

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5. I advised [redacted] that my opinion of him as a trustworthy and reliable individual had changed considerably since we made a gentleman's agreement in Cairo in April or May of 1948, that he understood the reasons for his transfer to the United States at Grade CAF-11 and accepted it without malice or further discussion, and that he immediately thereafter proceeded to break the gentleman's agreement in every conceivable manner. I stated further that I did not care to have an employee of his category heading an overseas mission for me or working for me in a grade higher than a CAF-11.

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6. [redacted] then stated that he believed that if I had been in his position I would have broken the agreement exactly as he did and started out to review some of his former accusations against me and General Sibert, which amounted to the charge that he was replaced as

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Chief of the Mediterranean Bureau purely for personal reasons so that a friend of mine and General Sibert's could be put in his place, and further, that this friend was very incompetent. I then advised [] that I did not consider it appropriate for us to discuss the competency of other employees in FBIB,

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7. [] was outwardly hostile during the entire interview, and with a slight show of temper stated that he perhaps had not carried his case as far as he could or would, and hinted in a vague sort of way that he might bring some further pressure upon the agency concerning the treatment which he alleges he has received.

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8. I then advised him that we had absolutely no objection to him pursuing any proper course of action to have his case reviewed, that his return to the States had nothing to do with personal feelings, and that his resignation from this organization was entirely voluntary.

9. [] stated that on at least one occasion when he applied for a job he was told that he could not have the job because he had had considerable difficulty with me in the past. I advised him that I had been called twice with reference to this record; once by the Department of the Army and once by the Voice of America, and that I had given an appraisal of him in accordance with the contents of the foregoing paragraphs, that I did not specifically recall relating the difficulties which we had had, but that I should not hesitate to do so if any governmental agency inquired of me whether or not there had been any such difficulties. I also advised him that I considered it my duty as a government employee to give my honest opinion of his qualifications and capabilities to any other government agency considering his employment, and that I would do so in all cases.

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10. [] then asked if I had any objection to him telling prospective employers that I had only known him for a short time and that my statements were based upon very short acquaintance. I told him that I had no objection whatever to such action, and the interview was terminated at approximately 12:15 p.m.

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L. K. WHITE

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Personnel Officer

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